

Exercise walk-through

What textual details reveal about a character ■ 1.1

eXercise

You must be able to

- name the three things that reveal characters
- name the four possible sources of a description
- define perspective and what informs it
- explain the two-way relationship between perspective and relationships

Method — Three revealers

Description, dialogue and behavior reveal characters to readers. Three channels, and a strong answer uses more than one.

Method — Four sources

Descriptions may come from **a speaker, a narrator, other characters, or the characters themselves**. Who is describing matters: a rival's description is evidence about the rival too.

Method — Perspective

Perspective is how narrators, characters or speakers understand their circumstances, informed by background, personality traits, biases and relationships.

Method — Two-way

A character's perspective is **both shaped and revealed** by relationships, the environment, plot events and the ideas expressed in the text. The same relationship that forms a view is the evidence for it.

Practice 2.1 ■ 3 marks

Name the three things that reveal characters.

Solution 2.1

Method: Three revealers

Worked steps

description **B1**; dialogue **B1**; behavior **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Define perspective and name what informs it.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

how narrators, characters or speakers understand their circumstances **B1**; informed by background, personality traits, biases and relationships **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A character is described by a rival.

- (a) State what this reveals besides the character described.
- (b) Explain why the source of a description matters.

Solution 2.3

Method: Four sources

Worked steps

(a) the rival's own perspective and biases **B1**. (b) a description is a character's view of another **B1**, so it is evidence about the describer as well as the described **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Perspective is informed by background, personality traits, relationships and

A biases

B page count

C publication date

D genre

Solution 3.1

Method: Perspective

A biases



B page count

C publication date

D genre

Worked steps

A. biases are the CED's fourth item.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A character's perspective is described as

- A** only shaped by relationships
- B** both shaped and revealed by them
- C** only revealed by them
- D** independent of them

Solution 3.2

Method: Two-way

- A only shaped by relationships
- B both shaped and revealed by them**
- C only revealed by them
- D independent of them



Worked steps

B. both, in the CED's own wording.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A story shows a character speaking kindly and acting cruelly.

- (a) State which two channels are in play.
- (b) Explain what the contradiction gives a reader.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) dialogue and behavior **B1**. (b) evidence that the character's words and actions diverge **B1**, which is more informative than either channel alone **B1**.